

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00835 261318Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 OIC-02 /069 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3608
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0835

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, US, NS
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL
INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 159747

1. STILL FEELING ITS WAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
AFTER LESS THAN TWO YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, SURINAM CONTINUES
TO TAKE A CAUTIOUS, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO JOINING AND
PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS--JUST
AS IT IS DOING IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF ITS
BILATERAL RELATIONS. SURINAM DELEGATIONS TO MEETINGS OF
THESE ORGANIZATIONS CAN THUS BE EXPECTED TO SPEND MORE
TIME OBSERVING THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AND SHOWING THE
FLAG THAN ACTIVELY PURSUING SPECIFIC INTERESTS. AT THE
SAME TIME, SURINAMERS ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO
U.S. APPROACHES ON ISSUES WHICH ARISE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA
AND A CONSCIOUS EFFORT ON OUR PART TO REMEMBER SURINAM
SHOULD PAY DIVIDENDS IN THE FORM OF COOPERATION WHEN OUR
INTERESTS COINCIDE, UNDERSTANDING WHEN THEY DO NOT, AND
EVEN FAVORABLE VOTES ON OCCASION.

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2. SURINAM WANTS TO FEEL A PART OF INTERNATIONAL DECISION-
MAKING AND PARTICULARLY WANTS TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF MORE
CLOSELY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
ESPECIALLY VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT,
THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, SURINAM DECISION-
MAKERS WERE DUTCH UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO (STILL SPEAK DUTCH
OFFICIALLY) AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL WEIGHT

TO DUTCH VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WITH WHICH THEY HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE. SURINAM, LIKE MANY OTHER NEW NATIONS, MAY FREQUENTLY FIND IT EASIER TO ABSTAIN OR BE ABSENT ON MATTERS WHICH ARE OF NO DIRECT CONCERN TO IT AND ON WHICH IT WISHES TO AVOID DAMAGING ITS POTENTIAL NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS, BUT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN SURINAM WILL PLAY A MORE POSITIVE ROLE AND SUPPORT U.S. POSITIONS.

3. AS BEST AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN, THERE IS NO DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY AS SUCH WITHIN THE GOS TO PRODUCE POLICY DECISIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. RATHER THERE ARE A FEW INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS), AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY FOR GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO DO THE BEST THEY CAN WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE IMMENSE AND DIVERGENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN OTHER AREAS PLACED ON THEM--TO ARRIVE AT SOME CONSISTENCY IN POLICY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN FACT, MANY UN-RELATED DECISIONS ARE MADE ON THE SPOT IN NEW YORK BY AMBASSADOR TO THE UN HEIDWEILLER, BUT THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE SURINAM DELEGATION HAS BEEN PARALYZED FOR LACK OF CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS.

4. OVER TIME, SURINAM WILL BUILD UP A FOREIGN POLICY APPARATUS AND WILL BEGIN TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CAN PROMOTE SURINAMESE INTERESTS. AS FOR NOW, HOWEVER, INTERNATIONAL BODIES ARE SEEN LARGELY
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AS TESTIMONY TO SURINAM'S INDEPENDENT STATUS AND POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID (IFT'S). FOR OUR PART, WE SHOULD AVOID DELUGING THE GOS AND ITS DELEGATIONS WITH TOO MANY REPRESENTATIONS WHICH THE SYSTEM SIMPLY CANNOT ABSORB AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, WE SHOULD INFORM THEM OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS AND SOLICIT THEIR COOPERATION ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE GOOD STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THEIR DESIRE TO WORK WITH US WILL PRODUCE A POSITIVE RESPONSE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

5. THE NULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER AT THIS POST IS RONALD D. LORTON, POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER.
ZURHELLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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